

Claims

1. A method for identifying modulators of BS69 activity, which method comprises contacting an assay system, capable of presenting information on the effects of a test compound on the activity of BS69 or a derivative thereof, with a test compound and measuring the activity of BS69.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein BS69 activity refers to the ability of BS69 or a fragment thereof to bind to a BS69 binding protein.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the BS69 binding protein is one selected from the group consisting of: Smad 2, Smad 3, a complex of Smad 2 and Smad 4, a complex of Smad 3 and Smad 4, or fragments thereof, or PAI-1 promoter element.
4. A cell or cell line comprising a reporter gene under the control of a BS69 transcription factor dependent promoter.
5. A method for identifying modulators of BS69 transcription which method comprises contacting a cell or cell line as claimed in claim 4 with a test compound, said cell or cell line supplied with exogenous or endogenous BS69, and determining the effect on BS69 transcription by the test compound by reference to enhanced or reduced expression of the reporter gene.
6. A method of treatment of a patient in need of such treatment for a condition which is mediated by the biological or pharmacological activity of BS69 on a human BS69 binding substrate, comprising administration of a polypeptide substantially as depicted in WO97/00323 SEQ ID NO:2 or a pharmacologically active fragment thereof.
7. A method of treatment of a patient in need of such treatment for a condition which is mediated by the biological activity of BS69 on a human BS69 binding substrate, comprising administration of a nucleic acid substantially as depicted in WO97/00323

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SEQ ID NO:1 or the anti-sense sequence or a biologically-effective fragment of either thereof.

8. A compound that modulates BS69 transcription or other BS69 activity identified
5 according to the method as described in any of claims 1, 2, 3 and 5.
9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that modulates the biological or pharmacological activity of BS69 on a human BS69 binding substrate identified according to the method as described in any of claims 1, 2, 3 and 5.
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10. A method of treatment of a patient in need of such treatment for a condition which is mediated by the pharmacological or biological activity of BS69 on a human BS69 binding substrate comprising administration of a modulating compound or pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claims 8 or 9.

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